

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A parallel ruler comprising:
2 a frame, and
3 a plurality of gauges disposed in a flat portion of the frame, the gauges having
4 compressible parts protruding downward beyond a lower surface of the frame for measuring a
5 distance to a plane.
- 1 2. The parallel ruler of claim 1, wherein the gauges have measurement indications which are
2 readable from an upper surface of the frame.
- 1 3. The parallel ruler of claim 2, wherein the gauges comprise a back plunger dial indicator.
- 1 4. The parallel ruler of claim 2, wherein the frame comprises a sustaining structure and a
2 gauge hosting structure, the gauges being disposed in the gauge hosting structure.
- 1 5. The parallel ruler of claim 4, wherein the gauge hosting structure is supported by the
2 sustaining structure.
- 1 6. The parallel ruler of claim 4, wherein the gauge hosting structure and the sustaining
2 structure are of ring shape.
- 1 7. The parallel ruler of claim 6, wherein the sustaining structure has handles.
- 1 8. The parallel ruler of claim 6, wherein at least three gauges are disposed in the gauge
2 hosting structure.
- 1 9. The parallel ruler of claim 8, wherein gauges are disposed substantially equidistant from
2 adjacent gauges.

- 1 10. The parallel ruler of claim 6, further comprising:
2 a plurality of ancillary gauges disposed in the sustaining structure of the frame.
- 1 11. A method of measuring a position and orientation of a plane, comprising:
2 disposing a parallel ruler over a plane, the parallel ruler comprising a frame and a
3 plurality of gauges disposed in a flat portion of the frame, the gauges having compressible parts
4 protruding downward beyond a lower surface of the frame for measuring a distance to the plane;
5 measuring level of compression of the compressible parts of the gauges when at least
6 compressible part of one gauge contacts the plane;
7 adjusting the plane until level of compression of the compressible parts of every gauge is
8 approximately the same.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 calibrating the parallel ruler before disposing the parallel ruler over the plane.
- 1 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 adjusting the plane until level of compression of the compressible parts of every gauge
3 reaches a predetermined value.
- 1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein at least three gauges are disposed in the flat portion of
2 the frame.
- 1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the plane is an upper surface of a movable electrode.
- 1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the plane is an upper surface of a movable cathode in
2 an etching device.
- 1 17. A method to measure a position and orientation of a movable electrode, comprising:
2 calibrating a parallel ruler, the parallel ruler comprising a sustaining structure, a gauge
3 hosting structure supported by the sustaining structure, and a plurality of gauges disposed in a
4 flat portion of the gauge hosting structure, the gauges having compressible parts protruding

5 downward beyond a lower surface of the gauge hosting structure for measuring a distance to the
6 electrode;
7 disposing the parallel ruler over the movable electrode;
8 measuring level of compression of the compressible parts of the gauges when at least
9 compressible part of one gauge contacts the movable electrode;
10 adjusting the movable electrode until level of compression of the compressible parts of
11 every gauge reaches a predetermined value.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the movable electrode is a movable cathode in an
2 etching device.